

1 A MEMORIAL

2 DECLARING FRIDAY, JANUARY 25, 2008, "BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS
3 YOUTH MENTORING DAY" AT THE SENATE.

4
5 WHEREAS, more boys and girls in New Mexico than ever
6 before grow up in circumstances that place them at severe
7 risk of dropping out of school, youth crime and violence,
8 drug and alcohol abuse and teen pregnancy; and

9 WHEREAS, the big brothers big sisters mission is to
10 bring caring adults into the lives of young people in order
11 to prevent destructive behavior and instill positive values
12 and life skills; and

13 WHEREAS, New Mexico's big brothers big sisters programs
14 served over three thousand children in 2007 in counties
15 across the entire state and these programs were nationally
16 recognized for their Hispanic and Native American mentoring
17 initiatives; and

18 WHEREAS, science-based research has shown that a young
19 person who is matched with a big brother or big sister
20 volunteer is:

21 A. forty-six percent less likely to start using
22 illegal drugs;

23 B. twenty-seven percent less likely to start
24 drinking;

25 C. fifty-two percent less likely to skip a day of

1 school;

2 D. thirty-seven percent less likely to skip a
3 class; and

4 E. less likely to engage in violence; and

5 WHEREAS, the positive impact of big brothers big sisters
6 has proved that one adult caring for one child is the most
7 powerful force to keep young people in school, off drugs and
8 alcohol and out of trouble with the law; and

9 WHEREAS, New Mexico's big brothers big sisters programs
10 and its school-based partners have grown twice as fast as the
11 national average, increasing the number of youth matched with
12 adults by nearly sixty percent to three thousand one hundred
13 big-little matches in the past year; and

14 WHEREAS, with waiting lists for all of its programs and
15 a torrent of requests from unserved counties in New Mexico,
16 the big brothers big sisters programs in New Mexico are
17 committed to bringing its life-changing program to all
18 children in the state, regardless of where they reside;

19 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE
20 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the invaluable contributions of big
21 brothers big sisters be recognized and that Friday, January
22 25, 2008, be declared "Big Brothers Big Sisters Youth
23 Mentoring Day" at the senate. _____